NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO HOLD OFFICE DAY IN CRANE

CRANE, TEXAS, June 16, 2004 – USDA Rural Development invites the public to attend a session, where information will be provided regarding our Housing, Community, and Business and Cooperative Programs. USDA Rural Development representatives will be available at the Crane County Exhibition Building, in the Buffalo Room, located at 900 West 6th Street, Crane, Texas, on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

"This is an opportunity to bring information about USDA Rural Development programs directly to the citizens in their rural areas," said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. "Representatives will be available to answer individual questions and assist applicants with their applications."

USDA Rural Development's housing programs offer loans and grants to applicants in towns and cities meeting certain population requirements. Programs offered assist qualified persons to buy, build, repair or maintain a home.

USDA Rural Development's community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers and fund new and improved water and wastewater facilities.

USDA Rural Development's business and cooperative programs provide the needed capital to expand economic opportunities and development in rural areas throughout Texas by working with banks and community lenders. There is no minimum loan size and the maximum loan size is up to \$25 million.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Fort Stockton Local Office at 432-336-7585, Ext. 4, or visit our website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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